

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 10840 261714Z

64

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-10 /077 W  
----- 119709

R 261022Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS LAGOS 10840

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN REACTION TO ETHIOPIAN EXECUTIONS

1. INITIAL NIGERIAN PRESS REACTION TO NOVEMBER 23  
EXECUTIONS IN ETHIOPIA HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY UNFAVORABLE.  
FIRST FOUR EDITORIALS (TIMES, RENAISSANCE, OBSERVER, AND  
HERALD) HAVE DESCRIBED KILLINGS AS "NIGHTMARE,"  
"OBNOXIOUS EVIL," "DASTARDLY AND WANTON MURDER," AND  
"THOUGHTLESS COLD-BLOODED MASS MASSACRE". BOTH HERALD  
AND OBERVER DESCRIBED EXECUTIONS AS "JUSTICE OF THE  
JUNGLE" AND LATTER ADDED THAT THEY "CAN ONLY BE LIKENED TO  
JEWISH MASSACRE IN ADOLPH HITLER'S GERMANY."

2. IN COURSE THEIR COMMENTARY, PAPERS MAKE CLEAR THEY  
HAVE THREE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS: (A) DAMAGE WHICH ETHIOPIAN  
EXECUTIONS DO TO IMAGE BOTH OF AFRICA GENERALLY AND MORE  
PARTICULARLY OF MILITARY REGIME: (B) FEAR THAT "THIS  
UNWHOLESOME WAVE" COULD GET OUT OF HAND AND LEAD ENTIRE COUNTRY  
INTO CHAOS: AND (C) FATE OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE. ON LAST  
POINT, OBERSER GOES SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST OAU DELEGATION BE  
SENT ADDIS "TO IMPORE RULING ARMY OFFICERS TO SPARE LIVES OF  
THOSE STILL AWAITING TRIAL, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR EMPEROR."  
TAKING EVEN STRONGER LINE, RENAISSANCE URGES SEVERANCE OF  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND REMOVAL OF OAU HQ FROM ADDIS ABABA.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAGOS 10840 261714Z

3. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL FMG REACTION, AND IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OAU STATES MAY IN FACT KEEP FMG PUBLICLY SILENT DESPITE FACT IT PRESUMABLY SHARES CONCERNS OUTLINED ABOVE.

REINHARDT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, EXECUTIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LAGOS10840  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740343-0667  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741112/aaaaajvu.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIGERIAN REACTION TO ETHIOPIAN EXECUTIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ET, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005